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PAGE 01 STATE 238359

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238359

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO NEW DELHI ARAB SUMMIT
CONFERENCE ADDIS ABABA DACCA FROM RABAT OCT 29

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5253

NEW DELHI AND DACCA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO XF

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: JORDANIAN-PLO BREAKTHROUGH ANNOUNCED

1. SUMMARY. ARAB SUMMIT HAS ANNOUNCED BREAKTHROUGH IN
PLO-HUSSEIN DEADLOCK. "ACCORD" SEEMS TO REPRESENT MAJOR
CONCESSIONS BY HUSSEIN BUT IT REMAINS BE SEEN HOW REAL THE
AGREEMENT WILL PROVE. AS PART OF AGREEMENT, CONFERENCE CALLS
FOR EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND PLO TO "WORK OUT THEIR
RELATIONS." THIS MAY BE REFERENCE TO FORMULATION OF ARAB
STRATEGY ON HOW FUTURE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HANDLED.
CONFERENCE CLOSING HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO LATER OCT 29,
PERHAPS TO GIVE LEADERS TIME ALSO TO CONSIDER OTHER ISSUES.
BOUMEDIENE HAS ALREADY LEFT RABAT AND OTHER LEADERS
EXPECTED FOLLOW BEFORE FORMAL CLOSE. CHIEFS OF STATE
DELEGATION TO UN FOR PALESTINE DEBATE MAY INCLUDE
BOUMEDIENE, KING HASSAN, ALI BHUTTO AND SIAD BARRE.
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PAGE 02 STATE 238359

COMMENTING ON ARAB OIL MINISTERS' MEETING OCT 27,

SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS CITES WELL-INFORMED SOURCE AS SAYING THAT FUTURE USE OF OIL WEAPON NOT EXCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

2. PLO-JORDANIAN BREAKTHROUGH. AT 2300 LOCAL OCT 28, DEPUTY ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN NOWFAL ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT DEADLOCK WHICH HAD PREOCCUPIED 7TH ARAB SUMMIT HAD BEEN BROKEN. WORD OF THIS BREAK HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO PRESS FOUR HOURS EARLIER BY MOROCCAN INFORMATION MINISTER BENHIMA, BUT LATTER HAD NOT PROVIDED ANY DETAILS. NOWFAL, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE, MADE FIVE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- (A) CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND AND TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
- (B) CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY UNDER PLO.
- (C) CONFERENCE SUPPORTS PLO IN ALL AREAS AND AT ALL LEVELS.
- (D) CONFERENCE CALLS UPON EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND PLO TO GET TOGETHER TO ORGANIZE THEIR RELATIONS.
- (E) CONFERENCE CALLS UPON ARAB STATES NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF HIS STATEMENT, NOWFAL SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD THANKED HUSSEIN FOR HIS SUPPORT AND THAT HUSSEIN HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCURRENCE IN THESE FIVE POINTS.

4. NOWFAL ANNOUNCEMENT CLIMAXED DAY OF INTENSE ACTIVITY AIMED AT FINDING SOLUTION. IN MORNING, SADAT, ASAD, HUSSEIN, AND ARAFAT MET WITH KING HASSAN AND WERE JOINED LATER BY FAISAL AND BOUMEDIENE. SAME GROUP CONTINUED DELIBERATIONS OVER LUNCH AS GUESTS OF HASSAN. IN MID-AFTERNOON, EGYPTIAN INFO MINISTER ABU-AL-MAJD HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE INDICATED THAT DIFFERENCES WERE GREAT BUT COULD BE BRIDGED. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY BENHIMA STATEMENT.

5. IMPRESSION OF PRESS SOURCE MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE IS THAT THERE CONSIDERABLE TRUTH TO ASSERTIONS OF MOROCCAN PRESS THAT KING HASSAN PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN ACHIEVING PLO-JORDANIAN ACCORD. OTHER PRINCIPALS IN BEHIND-SCENES ACTIVITY WERE SADAT AND ASAD, ACCORDING THIS SOURCE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 238359

6. POSTPONEMENT OF CLOSING. AS RESULT OF TIME-CONSUMING COMPLEXITY OF PLO-JORDAN PROBLEM, AND PERHAPS DUE NEED TO ADDRESS OTHER ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED, LEADERS HAVE DECIDED POSTPONE ADJOURNMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED MORNING OCTOBER 29. LEADERS AND FONMINS NOW TO MEET AT 1000 LOCAL OCT 29. CLOSING SESSION HAS BEEN MOVED TO 1230, BUT OFFICIAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT IT MAY SLIP TO MID OR LATE AFTERNOON. IN ADDITION TO HARDY

PERENNIALS OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION AND EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, WE UNDERSTAND SOME LEADERS ARE CONCERNED LEST QUESTIONS OF ARAB ARMS PURCHASES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB ARMS INDUSTRY NOT BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT ATTENTION. MEANWHILE, BOUMEDIENE HAS ALREADY LEFT RABAT MORNING OCT 29, AND OTHERS EXPECTED TO DEPART BEFORE FORMAL CLOSURE.

7. PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED. SOMETIME FOLLOWING CLOSING SESSION, KING HASSAN AND ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN MAHMUD RIAD ARE SCHEDULED GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES, AT WHICH TIME COMMUNIQUE ON RESULTS OF CONFERENCE SEEMS LIKELY TO BE MADE PUBLIC.

8. UN DELEGATION ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SAYS THAT, ACCORDING TO PLO SOURCE, FOUR CHIEFS OF STATE (HASSAN AS PRESIDENT OF ARAB SUMMIT, BOUMEDIENE AS PRESIDENT OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, ALI BHUTTO AS PRESIDENT OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, AND SIAD BARRE AS PRESIDENT OF OAU) MAY ACCOMPANY YASSER ARAFAT TO UN ABOUT NOV 13 FOR DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

9. ARAB OIL MINISTERS. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS OCT 29 COMMENTS ON ARAB OIL MINISTERS' MEETING HELD OCT 27. CITING WHAT IT SAW AS RECENT BLAME OF ARABS FOR INFLATION CRISIS IN WEST AND THREAT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION AND FOOD BOYCOTT OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, PRESS NOTES THAT MEETING OF SIX ARAB OIL MINISTERS (RABAT 5242) TOOK PLACE IN ORDER TO FORMULATE COMMON POSITION IN FACE OF EXTERNAL THREATS. QUESTION OF PRICES, US REQUEST FOR LOWERING OF PRICES, AND "INITIATIVE ALGERIA PLANNING TO TAKE" ON THIS MATTER WERE REPORTEDLY EXAMINED. WELL-INFORMED SOURCE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT NOT EXCLUDED THAT OIL WEAPON--A DELICATE ONE WHICH MUST BE HANDLED WITH SKILL AND PRUDENCE--WILL AGAIN BE UTILIZED IF ARAB-PALESTINIAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 238359

ASPIRATIONS ARE NOT ACHIEVED AND IF THE WESTERN ALLIES OF ISRAEL DO NOT SHOW MORE COMPREHENSION TOWARD ARAB CAUSE. RESOLUTION ALSO REPORTEDLY ADOPTED AT SUMMIT THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL ACCORD PRIORITY IN INVESTMENTS TO NON-OIL PRODUCING ARAB STATES.

10. OTHER SUBJECTS. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS THAT PAN-ARAB MILITARY COOPERATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES BEING DISCUSSED. IT SAYS CONFERENCE EXPECTED TO CALL FOR STRENGTHENING OF TIES WITH AFRICA FOR PURPOSE OF WARDING OFF EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. ON SAHARA, CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO SUPPORT JOINT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN REQUEST TO RESORT TO ICJ AND APPEAL TO SPAIN TO GO ALONG WITH THIS AND ABSTAIN FROM ANY UNILATERAL MEASURE WHICH MIGHT HARM

TRADITIONAL AND FRUITFUL SPANISH-ARAB FRIENDSHIP.

11. COMMENT: ELEVENTH-HOUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLO-JORDANIAN ACCORD APPEARS TO HAVE SAVED SUMMIT FROM BECOMING AN OBVIOUS SHOW OF ARAB DISARRAY. MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY HUSSEIN GENERALLY REGARDED AS HAVING MADE ACCORD POSSIBLE. AGREEMENT BEING INTERPRETED HERE AS BOILING DOWN TO PLO CONTROL OVER ANY OCCUPIED TERRITORY WHICH MIGHT BE RECOVERED AND ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY PLO COULD BE INVOLVED IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN SUCH CASE, FEELING IS JORDAN WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE SOME ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS ALONG WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA. DETAILS OF ACCORD HAVE NOT YET EMERGED IN DEFINITIVE FORM, HOWEVER, AND EXTRA SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS OCT 29 MAY WELL BE DEALING WITH LOOSE ENDS, AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH PLO-JORDANIAN DISPUTE. ONLY TIME WILL TELL HOW FIRM REPORTED PLO-JORDANIAN ARRANGEMENT IS AND TO WHAT EXTENT PLO-JORDANIAN HOSTILITY WILL IN FACT BE ALLEVIATED.
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